

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 IO-13 SSM-05
TRSE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01 AF-10 /107 W
-----081342Z 085953 /40

O R 081301Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2999
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2912

LONDON FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUES INTENSE COVERAGE OF
FORTHCOMING CARTER-ASAD TALKS

1. SOLE DAMASCUS DAILIES PUBLISHED SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
CONTINUED INTENSE FOCUS ON FORTHCOMING CARTER-ASAD MEETING.
ARTICLES CONCENTRATED ON EXTENSIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND
PRESS COVERAGE FOR VISIT AND GREAT IMPORTANCE "OBSERVERS"
ATTACH TO IT. SWISS AND OTHER PAPERS QUOTED TO LEND
CREDIBILITY TO LOCAL CLAIMS THAT VISIT IS EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT. QUOTES LIBERALLY SPRINKLED THROUGH SYRIAN
ARTICLES ON VISIT PRAISING PRES. ASAD, SUCH AS ONE FROM
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"TRIBUNE DE GENEVE" THAT "SYRIA, LED BY ASAD, ACCOMPLISHED
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AT TIME WHEN IT SPENDING 70 PERCENT
OF ITS BUDGET FOR DEFENSE." ANOTHER QUOTE CHARACTERIZED
SYRIA'S FOREIGN POLICY AS "WISE AND BALANCED." THROUGHOUT
COVERAGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT SYRIAN MEDIA HAVE LOST
NO CHANCE TO EXTOLL ASAD AS LEADER ABLE TO DEAL WITH LEADERS
OF TWO GREAT POWERS FROM POSITION OF STRENGTH AND EQUALITY.

2. MAY 8 SANA ARTICLE DATELINED LONDON QUOTED AMERICA OFFICIAL SOURCES THAT U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT REACH FINAL DECISION ON DEFINING PLAN FOR SOLVING ME ISSUE UNTIL PRES. CARTER MEETS MONDAY WITH PRES. ASAD IN GENEVA, THEN WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD OF SAUDI ARABIA IN WASHINGTON, AND AFTER CONCLUSION OF ISRAELI ELECTIONS.

3. PRINCIPAL TISHRIIN COLUMNIST JIBRAN KURIYYA WROTE MAY 8 THAT PRES. CARTER'S RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS ON ME "CONSTITUTE BROAD FRAMEWORK FOR SOLUTION WASHINGTON WANTS AND SEEKS. HE LISTED FOLLOWING POINTS AS INCLUDED IN CARTER'S FRAMEWORK:

A) NECESSITY FOR COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO REPLACE KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP POLICY;

B) NECESSITY OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 LINES WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS AND PROVIDING BOTH LEGAL AND RECOGNIZED SOVEREIGN BORDERS FOR ISRAEL AND SECURE AND DEFENSIBLE BORDERS FOR ISRAEL BEYOND THOSE SOVEREIGN BORDERS;

C) SOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BY PROVIDING A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES;

D) ASSIGNING U.S. THE ROLE OF PROMOTING NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL FINAL SETTLEMENT IS REACHED BY MEANS OF DIRECT TALKS IN GENEVA BY CONCERNED PARTIES.

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "ALTHOUGH U.S.G. DID NOT DECLARE THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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POINTS TO BE COMPLETE PROPOSAL AND DESPITE FACT THAT THESE POINTS FALL SHORT OF ARAB REQUIREMENTS AND CONCEPTIONS FOR SOLUTION, THEY ARE WORTH DISCUSSING WITH U.S. OFFICIALS, AND THEY CALL FOR EXPLANATION AND CLARIFICATION.

4. EDITORIAL COLUMN MADE POINTS SIMILAR TO THOSE MEDIA COMMENTARY HAS BEEN HAMMERING AWAY AT ALL WEEK. U.S. SAID CAPABLE OF EXERCISING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND ITS FAILURE TO DO SO WILL LEAD TO INCREASED DANGER OF "EXPLOSION" SINCE ARABS CANNOT ACCEPT STATUS QUO SITUATION. SYRIA DEPICTED AS KEY TO QUESTIONS OF WAR AND PEACE ON THE ARAB SIDE, AND ASAD WILL EMBODY ARAB POSITION WHEN HE MEETS CARTER. COLUMN MAKES POINT AGAIN THAT AFTER SERIES OF TALKS ALREADY HELD CARTER SHOULD BE CONVERSANT WITH REGION'S PROBLEM AND IS "REQUIRED TO CLARIFY HIS POSITION ON ME."

PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 08-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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